

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 632
DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 634

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 632)	
)	
In the Matter of)	
Application of Public Service Company)	
of North Carolina, Inc., for General Rate)	
Increase)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
)	REMOTE PROCEDURES FOR
DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 634)	EXPERT WITNESS HEARING
)	
In the Matter of)	
Application for Approval to Modify Existing)	
Conservation Programs and Implement)	
New Conservation Programs)	

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On April 1, 2021, in Docket No. G-5, Sub 632, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc., d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (PSNC) filed an application for a general rate case (Sub 632 Rate Case). On May 4, 2021, the Public Staff filed a Motion to Consolidate Dockets requesting that the Commission issue an order consolidating the Sub 632 Rate Case with Docket No. G-5, Sub 634. On May 18, 2021, the Commission issued an order granting the Public Staff's motion and consolidating the above-referenced dockets.

On June 11, 2021, the Commission issued a Scheduling Order, which among other things, set this matter for an expert witness hearing to be held in person in Raleigh, North Carolina, beginning on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., unless the Commission later determined it necessary to conduct the hearing by remote means or unless otherwise ordered.

On September 17, 2021, PSNC filed a Motion to Conduct Evidentiary Hearing by Remote Means. In support of its motion, PSNC states that due to the recent rise in coronavirus cases, PSNC believes it is safer for the evidentiary hearing to be conducted remotely via Webex. PSNC also represents that counsel for the Public Staff, Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc., and Evergreen Packaging, LLC have authorized PSNC to state these parties support the motion.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, including current high transmission rates of community spread of the delta variant of the novel coronavirus, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to direct that the hearing scheduled to begin on October 18, 2021, shall be conducted remotely via Webex. Information on the remote hearing process including how to participate, how to submit an attorney appearance sheet, and how to request a technical check, can be found on the Commission's website under "Remote Expert Witness Process."

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the expert witness hearing in the above-captioned proceeding previously scheduled to begin on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., will be conducted solely remotely via Webex. The hearing will be live streamed on YouTube, a link to which will be made available on the Commission's website: <https://www.ncuc.net/>;

2. That on or before Tuesday, October 5, 2021, parties shall provide the name, phone number, and email address of each attorney and witness that will participate in the hearing on the party's behalf directly to the Commission via email at ncucwebex@ncuc.net. The email providing the list of participants shall specify the rate case docket number (G-5, Sub 632) in the subject line;

3. That on or before Tuesday, October 12, 2021, each party shall file a statement consenting to the Commission holding the expert witness hearing by remote means, or a statement objecting to the same;

4. That on or before Thursday, October 14, 2021, counsel appearing at the remote hearing shall submit an appearance sheet to the Commission's Court Reporter via email at reporter@ncuc.net;

5. That parties and witnesses are encouraged to avoid using confidential information during the remote hearing. If a party deems it necessary to discuss confidential information during the hearing, the party shall inform the Presiding Commissioner and the hearing will transfer to a secure telephone line. On or before Thursday, October 14, 2021, PSNC shall provide to the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net, and to all other parties, the number for a secure phone line that can be used by the Commission and the parties during the hearings to present and receive expert witness testimony that involves information asserted to be confidential;

6. That each attorney and witness appearing at the remote hearing shall have an individual connection to the hearing. Two or more individuals should not share a connection;

7. That all hearing participants shall logon to the Webex event at least 15 minutes before the start of the hearing each day for the purpose of testing their connection;

8. That to facilitate expeditious handling and distribution of proposed exhibits and witness testimony summaries, the parties shall adhere to the following procedures:

- a. On or before Tuesday, October 12, 2021, parties shall each file a list of potential cross-examination exhibits and provide electronic copies of the proposed cross-examination exhibits labeled with the party name and numbered sequentially on the face of the document (e.g., "PSNC Proposed Cross Exhibit No. 1," "PSNC Proposed Cross Exhibit No. 2," etc.) to the other parties and to the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net;
- b. On or before Thursday, October 14, 2021, parties shall each file a list of potential redirect examination exhibits and provide electronic copies of the exhibits, labeled with the party's name and numbered sequentially, to the other parties and to the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net.
- c. Within two business days after the conclusion of a witness's testimony, parties shall each file all cross-examination and redirect exhibits accepted into evidence during the witness's testimony, labeled on the face of the document as marked during the hearing; and
- d. Parties may utilize witness testimony summaries in their discretion. On or before Thursday, October 14, 2021, parties electing to present witness testimony summaries shall provide electronic copies of witness testimony summaries to the other parties and the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk